

Joint Chiefs Ordered Rush Air Base Jobs, Senate Probers Told

By the Associated Press
An Air Force official told Senators today that the Joint Chiefs of Staff ordered rush construction of air bases in North Africa soon after the Communist attack in North Korea.

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Edwin V. Huggins offered this explanation for the hurried aspects of the construction in testimony to the Senate Preparedness Investigating subcommittee. The Senators are digging into reports of waste and extravagance on the multi-million dollar costs of overseas airbases.

Mr. Huggins indicated, but did not say directly, that top Pentagon leaders were apprehensive of a Communist drive in Europe or Africa after the Korean invasion in June, 1950.

Asked Five Air Bases.
The Senators had developed earlier in the hearings that the Air Force asked speedy completion of five air bases in Morocco, within six months, at an estimated cost of more than \$300 million.

Senator Hunt, Democrat, of Wyoming, acting chairman, noted that the original schedule called for equipment to move to the airbase sites in January of last year and for the bases to be completed by July.

Instead, Senator Hunt said, delays in negotiations with the French on the sites stalled the start of the program until April.

He asked if the "Air Force was negligent" in insisting upon completion by July 1 despite the delayed start.

Notes Pentagon Reports.
Downer Rice, committee attorney, noted that Pentagon reports on the job cited "delays, false starts, confusion and some waste."

Construction was under supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers, but private contractors were hired to do the work.

Mr. Rice said "engineering standards and specifications were flagrantly ignored." He asked Mr. Huggins if the Air Force agreed to this.

"You can't do an emergency program without spending more money than one that is not urgent," Mr. Huggins replied.

Mr. Huggins went on to say there was no attempt to complete the entire project between April and July. He said only minimum facilities for moving in airplanes and crews were sought as urgent.

Holiday Hearing.
Senator Hunt ordered the holiday hearing after two public sessions yesterday developed these assertions:

1. That laborers drew "premium pay" at a rate of \$13,000 a year and mechanics \$17,000 to work on a secret air base described as at or near the North Pole, and known by the code name of "Blue Jay."

2. That these workmen were paid \$317,000 "standby pay" while at home awaiting orders to report and more than \$3 million while being shipped to the job.

3. That more than \$350 million have been poured into six air bases in North Africa since the Korean war started, and that sites for several bases were changed or abandoned after thousands of dollars had been spent.

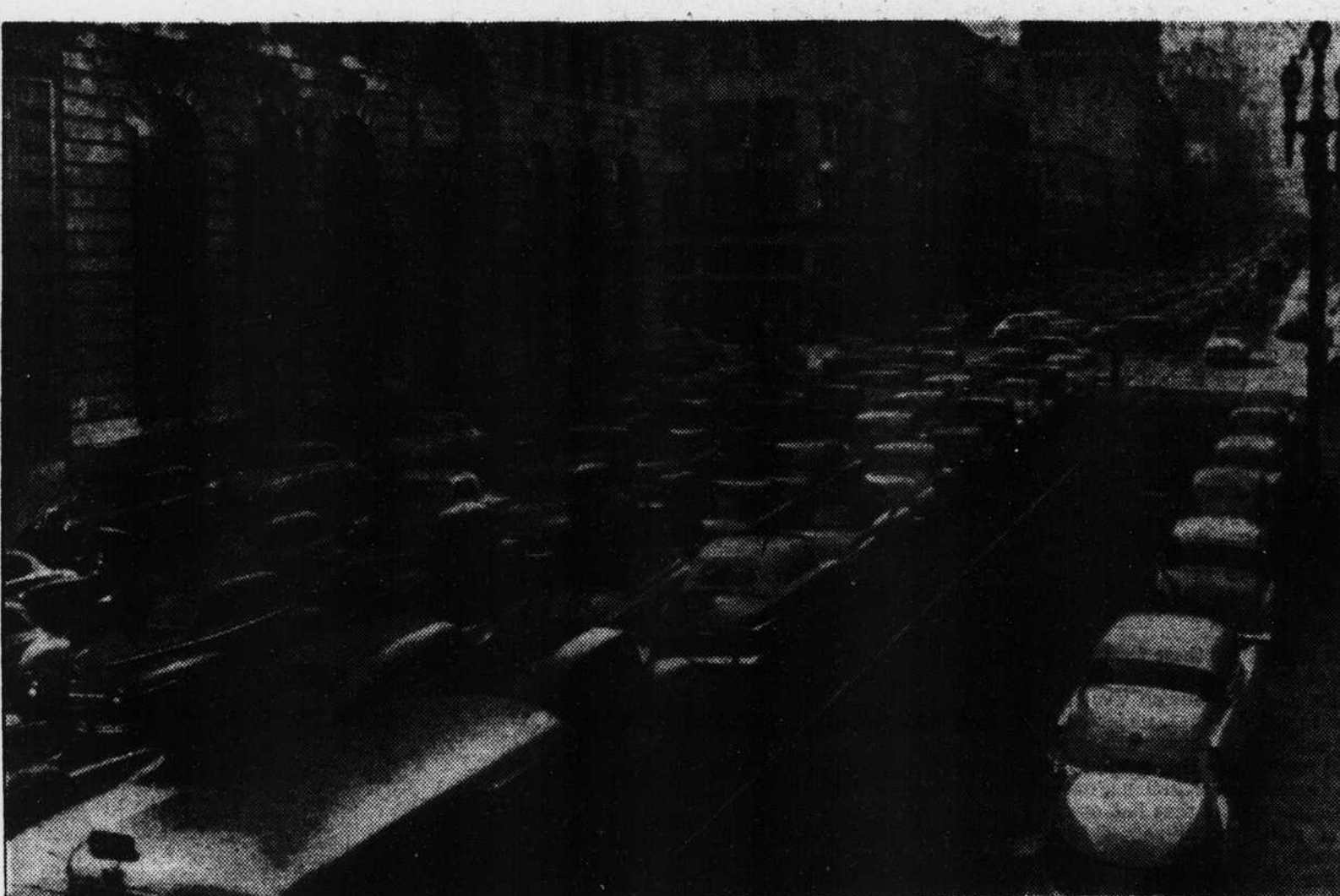
Improper Materials.
4. That improper materials went into some of these African bases with a result that the Air Force may have to repair them continually while they are in use.

5. That the rush cost-plus fixed fee projects in Africa have produced half a dozen unpublished investigations of charges of waste and improper materials by Pentagon officials, with lack of agreement as to who is to blame.

Rubber Replanting Law Is Sought in Malaya

By the Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaya.—The Malayan Federation government is seeking legislation to compel small rubber growers to set up a systematic replanting program to replace trees dying because of age.

Small holders, mostly Chinese, grow about one half of the rubber produced in Malaya. The large estates have conducted replanting programs for years but small holders have been prone to "milk" the trees as long as possible and then move on to new sites.



PARKING PARADISE—San Francisco.—This is Market street as it appeared on the second day of the municipal car and railway strike. The city turned over its principal street into a huge parking lot to take care of the thousands of extra cars in the city because there was no other means of transportation.

Steel Strike Delayed To March 23 to Await Decision by WSB

By the Associated Press
PITTSBURGH, Feb. 22.—The Nation will escape a steel strike Saturday but a walkout may come March 23 unless a contract controversy is settled.

Top strategy makers of the million member CIO United Steelworkers did as expected yesterday in postponing their strike.

They warned: "We hope that a strike may be averted but the patience of our members is running out."

The union decided to cancel its week-end strike threat in order to give the Wage Stabilization Board time to recommend a settlement.

The union, headed by Philip Murray, also president of the CIO, has been working without a contract since January 1.

The USW's wage policy committee, in unanimously adopting a resolution of the executive board to delay the strike date, made it clear it expects the final settlement will be fully retroactive to the contract expiration date.

Asks Equitable Terms.
The Wage Policy Committee added: "We call upon the Wage Stabilization Board promptly to make its recommendation for fair and equitable terms of settlement of this dispute and to enable the board to do this we extend the present postponement of our strike until midnight, March 23, 1952."

"And we authorize President Murray to call a strike in the steel industry at any time after midnight, March 23, 1952, in the event a fair basis for an equitable settlement of the dispute is not forthcoming by that date."

The union and the steel companies recently presented their cases to a WSB panel. The panel is not expected to give its findings to the full WSB board for a week or 10 days.

The WSB's recommendation is not binding. However, such recommendations usually help form public opinion which often brings pressure on both sides. Top Government officials have said repeatedly a steel strike during the defense emergency is unthinkable.

The WSB entered the dispute after the union and industry were deadlocked on the union's request for an 18-cent hourly pay boost and other demands for the men who now average from \$1.92 to \$1.97 an hour.

New Inflation Feared.
Shortly after the union's action, Irving Olds, chairman of the board of United States Steel Corp., declared the "crucial question" in the steel industry wage discussions "is how many more disastrous rounds of inflation this country has the capacity to withstand."

In a speech at Salt Lake City Mr. Olds declared if the USW's entire demands were granted they would "put the entire steel industry into the red and head it down the road to bankruptcy and nationalization."

CIO Approves, NAM Opposes Jobless Pay Rise in Slack Areas

By the Associated Press
Legislation to increase unemployment compensation at Federal expense was endorsed today by the CIO and opposed by the National Association of Manufacturers.

The two organizations set forth their differing views in statements prepared for the Senate Finance Committee.

The committee is studying a bill, sponsored by Senator Moody, Democrat, of Michigan and 14 other Senators, under which the Federal Government would give an extra 50 per cent above State jobless benefits in areas hit hard by unemployment.

CIO approval of the bill was expressed by Vice President Walter P. Reuther, who also represented the CIO United Automobile Workers, of which he is president.

Mr. Reuther said defense unemployment exists in all parts of the country and relief is wholly the responsibility of the Federal Government in the circumstances.

Auto Industry's Situation.
In the auto industry, he added, "approximately 200,000 workers—able, willing and eager to turn out defense and essential civilian production—have lost their jobs."

In opposing the bill, Allen D. Marshall, vice chairman of the NAM's Employee Benefits Committee and assistant secretary of General Electric Co., questioned whether a serious unemployment emergency exists.

He said jobless figures in Michigan, for example, "reveal an unemployment emergency of no greater magnitude than has existed in the past."

Mr. Reuther called the Moody bill "economically wise, socially desirable, morally right," and added: "If we allow unemployed workers and their families . . . to be economically submerged during this emergency, while some corporations and high-income individuals are maintaining and even improving their economic condition, then we will have inflicted grave injury upon our own economy and the morale of the American people."

4-Point Argument.
For the NAM, Mr. Marshall said the Moody bill is not needed because: among other reasons:

"1. State funds are adequate . . . to deal with current unemployment.

"2. It (the bill) provides for considerable drain on the Federal Treasury at a time when deficit financing constitutes a serious inflationary problem.

"3. Such a Federal subsidy could not be eliminated with the end of the mobilization emergency—this year for 20 years from now.

"4. It would run counter to President Truman's program for the 'movement of workers when necessary' to areas of defense production and short labor supply."

In a letter to Senator Moody last Monday, however, Mr. Truman said the Senator was "on the right track" with his bill so far as a temporary solution was concerned.

Mr. Coy was in New York and was not available for comment, but so far as he will state publicly, he has made no decision on a job to replace his \$15,000-a-year position as FCC chairman, which he had held since December, 1947.

After his resignation he told reporters he could not afford the personal sacrifice of continuing to work for the Government. He said he had asked President Truman to relieve him from his post so that "I can negotiate for a job in private industry."

Mr. Coy announced his resignation to reporters as he was leaving the White House after a call on the President.

Emphasizing that he acted solely because of economic reasons, he said he has one child in college and another in prep school, and the expense made it necessary for him to seek other work.

Arlington Attorney to Speak
William J. Hassan, Commonwealth's Arlington County will be guest speaker at the February meeting of the Cherrydale Citizens' Association, 8 p.m. Monday, in the Cherrydale Fire Hall.

Lawmaker Proposes 'Psychological War' On World Communism

Representative Armstrong, Democrat, of Missouri, today called for a "new honesty" in American foreign policy by openly recognizing Soviet Russia as the enemy of mankind and waging psychological war to liberate enslaved masses under its control.

The Representative urged the launching of a campaign for truth and freedom in a keynote speech before the Conference on Psychological Strategy in the Cold War. The two-day conclave at the Washington Hotel ends tomorrow.

Recounts Policy Trend.
Mr. Armstrong recounted the recent course of this country's policy from collaboration with the Russians to "containment" of the Russians.

"The containment policy is a foundation of shifting sand upon which the structure of international order and peace will crumble to earth," he declared.

The Communist system must and can be destroyed without threatening our economy by building up enormous stockpiles of armaments. The method is to wage a war of truth in a crusade to overthrow Communism, Mr. Armstrong said.

Speakers for tonight's session will include Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers, retired director of psychological warfare against Japan in the last war, and Robert Vogler, American businessman kidnapped and imprisoned for months by the Communists in Hungary.

Joseph C. Grew, former Ambassador to Japan, will head the list of speakers scheduled to address the conference tomorrow beginning at 9 a.m.

Aide Quits Mahoney
To Run for Congress
By the Associated Press
ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 22.—William R. McClayton stopped managing George P. Mahoney's campaign yesterday and filed for Congress on his own.

Mr. McClayton, a Towson wholesale food dealer, filed for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd district. Mr. Mahoney is seeking the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate.

2 Million Lack Homes
ROME (AP).—An estimated 2 million Italians live in caves, holes and walled-up arches of ancient viaducts. The weekly newspaper, L'Europeo, of Milan, said that recent studies showed at least 130,000 Italians live in cellars and grottos in cities. Another 2 million "cavemen" are scattered throughout the country areas.

Bank Employees Link Second Sutton Crony To \$64,000 Robbery

By the Associated Press
NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—A second pal of Willie (The Actor) Sutton has been identified by witnesses as a participant in a \$64,000 bank holdup laid to the Sutton gang.

After long questioning of the prisoner, Assistant District Attorney James P. McGrattan said today he had taken a "statement" from him.

Asked the nature of the statement Mr. McGrattan would say only that it "could just as easily be a denial as a confession."

Although authorities refused to reveal the contents of the statement of John De Venuta, 37, they said his arrest had "cleaned up" the holdup of a branch of the Manufacturers Trust Co. in Queens March 9, 1950.

Identified by Employees.
De Venuta, a jail breaker, was identified by bank employees yesterday as a member of Sutton's gang in the holdup. Previously, employees had identified Sutton and Thomas Kling, 45, both under arrest.

Detective Capt. Walter Henning said police had established some time ago that only three bandits staged the holdup. The original alarm said there were five.

De Venuta, under questioning in Queens Borough where the holdup was committed, was booked there and at city police headquarters in Manhattan early today.

He was charged with assault and robbery.

Sutton, 51-year-old bank robber and jail breaker, and Kling are held on similar charges.

Romantic Angle Jailed.
The romantic interest in the case—Margaret Mary Moore, 20, an Irish-Arab girl here only a short time from Ireland—was still in jail today as a material witness.

She is the fourth person to be picked up since the roundup started with Sutton's seizure in Brooklyn Monday. She is not connected with the gang's crimes by police.

It developed yesterday that she and Sutton had had a romance, with dinner and movie dates and long walks, after they met on a park bench three months ago.

"I don't love him, but I liked him a lot," she said. She had not known Sutton was a wanted man, she said. Miss Moore also went out with Kling at times.

Sutton had said when arrested that he had been able to remain free for five years after a jail break partly because he never associated with women.

Plans to Sell Life Story.
Sutton issued a press release from his jail cell announcing he planned to sell his life story to a magazine and devote the money to steering youngsters from crime.

His court-appointed attorney, Garret Washington Herz, said Sutton was negotiating with a magazine, which he did not name, on a \$25,000 figure.

Sutton sent this message to one and all from his cell: "Crime doesn't pay. It's a sucker racket. . . . I realize the futility of a life of crime and I would like to do all I can to prevent even one youngster from taking the first step. . . ."

The lawyer said Sutton's offer to donate the money to a worthy purpose was "an attempt to make amends for mistakes he has made."

Senate Unit to Query Morris on His Role In Surplus Ship Deal

By the Associated Press
Members of the Senate Investigations subcommittee said today cleanup boss Newbold Morris will get the chance he has asked to explain his role in highly profitable surplus ship deals.

Mr. Morris, the New York Republican named by President Truman to head a housecleaning of tax scandals and wrongdoing in the Government, has been mentioned frequently in the subcommittee's investigations.

He told an Associated Press reporter Wednesday night his personal role in the ship deals was minor and proper, and that he objects to "innuendoes" about him.

"I wish they'd summon me instead of talking about it," he added. "I'll be glad to testify."

"That makes it unanimous," said Senator Mundt, Republican, of South Dakota, a subcommittee member when told of this. "There never was any doubt in my mind

he'd have to appear and do some explaining."

The subcommittee went ahead with plans to reopen its recessed hearings next Wednesday to look more closely at the ship deals which returned to Washington Lawyer Joseph E. Casey and friends a profit of more than \$3 million on cash investments of \$101,000.

Senator Mundt said Wednesday's session will deal with the mechanics by which charter revenues at a rate of \$2,191,305 a year on five ships owned by the Casey group remained exempt from United States taxes from October 21, 1947, through June 26, 1950, when the vessels were sold.

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